

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4911
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10418

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR US IN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY: FOREIGN MINISTER'S TOAST
AT LUNCHEON JULY 23

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE TOAST MADE BY GOI FOREIGN
MINISTER A.B. VAJPAYEE AT THE LUNCHEON HE HOSTED FOR THE
DEPUTY SECRETARY JULY 23. THIS IS OFFICIAL TEXT RELEASED
BY MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

2. QUOTE: ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE
OF INDIA, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GREAT SATISFACTION
AND HAPPINESS ON YOUR VISIT TO OUR CAPITAL. HAVING UNDER-
TAKEN A STRENUOUS JOURNEY ROUND THE WORLD, IT IS INDEED
GRACIOUS OF YOU TO HAVE STOPPED IN INDIA TO GREET US AND
EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH US. WHAT IS EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT IS
THAT OUR MEETING IS THE FIRST IN INDIA, OF THE TWO NEW
ADMINISTRATIONS - IN THE USA AND IN INDIA. WE ARE CONSCIOUS
OF YOUR CONSISTENT EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN INDO-US RELATIONS
AND THEREFORE THINK THAT YOUR VISIT IS INDEED A HAPPY AUGURY.

3. WE TRULY REJOICE IN THE FACT THAT THE RELATIONS
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE SO OPEN AND SO CLEARLY
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INSPIRED BY THE SAME IDEALS. IN BOTH COUNTRIES, WE
UNDERSTAND AND DRAW OUR STRENGTH FROM DEMOCRATIC
PLURALISM. WE HAVE NO NEED TO CONCEAL OURSELVES FROM
THE CRITICAL SCRUTINY OF EACH OTHER. WE ARE SECURE
IN THE ESSENTIAL CONVICTION THAT IT IS DEMOCRACY WHICH
HAS MADE US WHAT WE ARE, BLEMISHES NOTWITHSTANDING. IT
IS AS PEOPLES COMMITTED TO DEMOCRATIC VALUES THAT INDIA

AND USA MUST ASSERT AND UPHOLD THE DIGNITY OF MAN. THREATS TO THIS DIGNITY ARE EVERYWHERE - IN POVERTY, IGNORANCE, RACIALISM, POWER-HUNGER. UNLESS WE SUSTAIN OUR COMMON COMMITMENTS TO HUMAN VALUES, BY MUTUAL CONSULTATIONS IN TRUST AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN RESPECT, WE WILL FALL PREY TO THE EROSION OF ALL THAT WE HOLD BASIC TO THE PROGRESS OF OUR SOCIETIES.

4. MR. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, I NEED HARDLY TELL YOU HOW INDIA HAS FLATTERED THE UNITED STATES BY OUR ANXIETIES AS BY OUR EXPECTATIONS. THE UPS AND DOWNS OF OUR ATTITUDES WERE NEVER CHARACTERISED BY INDIFFERENCE. WE HAVE HAD OUR DOWNS, BUT WE HAVE A DEFINITE FEELING THAT OUR RELATIONS ARE ON THE UPWARD SWING. THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO A BASIC APPROACH OF INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGEMENT AND DETACHMENT FROM BLOCS WHICH WE CALL NON-ALIGNMENT IN THE TRUE SENSE. BUT WITH A STRENGTH DERIVED FROM THE CONFIDENCE REPOSED IN US BY THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, WE FEEL FREE FROM FEARS AND FREE FROM BIASES AND, ABOVE ALL, WE FEEL FREE TO GRASP THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP WHENEVER IT IS EXTENDED TO US.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION HAS ALSO GIVEN UP SOME OLD TILTS AND PREJUDICES. IN THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND IN THE MESSAGES HE HAS SENT TO OUR PRIME MINISTER, WE SEE A NEW HAND
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OF FRIENDSHIP EXTENDED ON THE BASIS OF SHARED IDEALS AND FAITH IN OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM. THERE IS NO REASON WHY ON THE BASIS OF DIGNITY AND EQUALITY WE CANNOT CLASP HANDS OF FRIENDSHIP - SUCH FRIENDSHIP DOES NOT HAVE TO BE CEMENTED BY A SHARED SENSE OF ADVERSITY OR ANIMOSITY. IT SHOULD HAVE A POSITIVE THREAD OF COMPLEMENTARITY AND A COMMON PURPOSE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS TO WHICH WE BELONG.

6. WE HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF THE STIRRING WORDS OF PRESIDENT CARTER WHEN HE SPOKE AT THE NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY ABOUT BRIDGING THE GREAT DIVIDE OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED THE INITIATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN LESSENING TENSIONS THROUGH RESTRAINT IN THE SALE OF ARMS, IN PROPOSING THAT RIVALRIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA SHOULD BE RESTRAINED AND ELIMINATED, IN OPPOSING THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, ETC. INDIA FOR ITS PART WILL BE READY TO CONTRIBUTE ITS EFFORTS IN THESE WORTHY ENDEAVORS. I WOULD LIKE TO DISPEL THE NOTION WHICH SOME PEOPLE SEEM TO HARBOUR, THAT INDIA'S NON-ALIGNMENT WOULD INHIBIT SUCH COOPERATION. ON THE

CONTRARY, THE AIMS OF NON-ALIGNMENT WILL BE EASIER
TO REALIZE IF ALL POWERS, GREAT OR SMALL, WORK TOWARDS
THE NOBLE OBJECTIVES SUCH AS THOSE WHICH PRESIDENT
CARTER HAS OUTLINED. EQUALLY, WE TRUST THAT THE UNITED
STATES WILL NOT LOOK ASKANCE AT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
IN THEIR STRUGGLE TO REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL
THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS TO HARNESS TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION.

7. IN WISHING YOUR DELEGATION A SUCCESSFUL TOUR, I
WOULD CALL ON ALL PRESENT TO RAISE A TOAST TO THE HEALTH
OF MR. WARREN CHRISTOPHER, U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE.
END QUOTEGOHEEN

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